12/15/86 #3275-2

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of Information and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 11, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 6 totaled an estimated 17.5 billion ton-miles, 6.3 percent above the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 49 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 833.6 billion ton-miles, 0.5 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 6 totaled 386,072, up 2.5 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 26.8 percent higher than the preceding holiday week.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 11 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, coal showed a gain of 8,723 cars (8.0 percent), while grain increased by 3,359 cars (13.6 percent). Nineteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the holiday week ended November 29 totaled 85,138 trailers and/or containers, 11.7 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 48 weeks of the year was 4,634,174 trailers and/or containers, up 9.3 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/06/86:

	Loadings in Week ended December 6, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,100	I	3,359	13.6	I	4,399	18.6
Other farm products	4,501	D	45	1.0	I	973	27.6
Metallic ores	8,786	D	3,121	26.2	D	1,840	17.3
Coal	117,185	I	8,723	8.0	I	23,799	25.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,969	I	540	4.7	I	3,696	44.7
Nonmetallic minerals	8,365	D	2,632	23.9	I	1,752	26.5
Grain mill products	11,282	I	286	2.6	I	2,137	23.4
Food and kindred products	11,365	I	54	0.5	I	2,653	30.5
Primary forest products	10,652	D	524	4.7	I	3,688	53.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,429	I	1,116	17.7	I	1,764	31.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,690	D	1,218	8.8	I	712	5.9
Chemicals and allied products	25,339	I	1,070	4.4	I	6,640	35.5
Petroleum products	4,628	D	135	2.8	I	1,248	36.9
Stone, clay and glass products	9,287	I	119	1.3	I	1,994	27.3
Coke	4,235	D	761	15.2	I	668	18.7
Metals and products	7,627	D	260	3.3	I	1,259	19.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,870	D	3,337	14.4	I	7,110	55.7
Waste and scrap materials	7,734	I	220	2.9	I	2,083	36.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,199	D	3,018	48.5	I	702	28.1
All other carloads	71,726	I	8,951	14.3	I	16,176	29.1
LCL traffic	103	D	29	22.0	D	12	10.4
Total Cars Loaded	386,072	I	9,358	2.5	I	81,601	26.8
Corresponding week of 1985	376,714						

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (49 weeks)	18,467,053	18,552,216	D 0.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
48 Weeks ended November 29	816.1 (Rev.)	813.3	I 0.3
Week ended December 6	17.5	16.5	I 6.3
49 Weeks cumulative	833.6	829.8	I 0.5

Rev. - Revised

#

AARt - 121186